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10-2079

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General A. J. Goodpaster, U.S.A.
White House Staff Secretary

SUBJECT: SPUTNIK II, With or Without Dog?

1. This memorandum is provided pursuant to your verbal request of 14 March concerning whether or not SPUTNIK II in fact did carry a dog.

2. On 3 November 1957, SPUTNIK II was launched probably from the Tyura Tam area. The official Moscow radio announcement stated that this satellite weighed about 1120 pounds and carried a live dog. Numerous Soviet statements and articles (official and unofficial) followed which contained additional data on this satellite. Available evidence does not permit a positive determination that this satellite in fact did carry an animal.

3. An analysis of all evidence concerning the size and weight of SPUTNIK II indicates that the Soviets could have provided all the necessary equipment and instrumentation to successfully place a live animal into orbit and monitor the physiological reactions thereof. Medical data purportedly acquired from the animal in SPUTNIK II is considered reasonable and probably accurate; however, it would be possible to extrapolate such data from simulated research performed on the ground. [redacted] 25X1
25X1 have not provided any information confirming or denying the existence of the dog experiment. Placing animals into space and studying the effects thereof is a necessary step to a manned space flight program as well as providing very valuable scientific data on the composition of outer space.

4. We believe that SPUTNIK II did carry a live dog and that the USSR may have acquired very valuable data therefrom.

[redacted] STAT
Executive Officer

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